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**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

1. In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 23 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Higgins (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,480) in view of Corley (U.S. Patent No 6,304,576); and claims 4 and 26 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Higgins (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,480) in view of Corley (U.S. Patent No 6,304,576) and further in view of Dirkman (U.S. Patent No. 6,922,399). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 11, 12, 18, 29, 33, 34 and 40, 41, 43 and 44 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Higgins (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,480) in view of Chu et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,683,858). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 14-17, 24, 25, 27, 30, 32, and 36-39, and for the allowance of claims 19-22.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-12, 15-27, 29, 32-34, and 37-41 and 44 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 12, 23, 29 and 34 have been amended. Claims 19-22 have been allowed. The rejections above have been traversed and, as such, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the allowability of claims 1-5, 7, 10-12, 15-27, 29, 32-34, and 37-41 and 44.

2. As discussed above, claim 1 was rejected based on the combination of Higgins and Corley. Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

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when the network access application is not active  
for the at least one of the plurality of clients,  
in response, opening a network access application  
for the at least one of the plurality of clients.

Neither Higgins nor Corley discloses, suggests or teaches such a feature. As indicated by the Examiner, Higgins fails to teach opening a network access application for at least one of the plurality of clients when the network access application is not active. Corley discloses a multimedia hub 120 that operates as follows.

The multimedia hub 120 is responsible for selecting a multimedia manager 190 under whose control it will operate. The multimedia hub 120 keeps a list of potential multimedia managers 190. Each multimedia manager 190 is assigned a unique priority from the perspective multimedia hubs 120. The priorities reflect the rank ordering of the associated multimedia manager 190 to be the manager for the multimedia hub 120. Each multimedia manager 190 added to the potential list to control the multimedia hub 120 conducts a keep-alive protocol with the multimedia hub 120. The protocol consists of a keep-alive message initiated by the multimedia manager 190 every 3-5 seconds and a keep-alive acknowledge from the multimedia hub 120. Absence of these keep-alive messages causes the multimedia hub 120 to drop the corresponding multimedia manager 190 as an active multimedia manager 190. Loss of an on-line multimedia manager 190 results in a reselection of another multimedia manager 190 and requires re-registration of the failed multimedia manager 190.

Corley's multimedia manager 190 is activated during either initialization of the multimedia hub 120 or recovery, when

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a prior multimedia manager drops off. Corley's multimedia hub does not open a network access application for the at least one of the plurality of clients, in response to the network access application not being active for the at least one of the plurality of clients. Corley opens the multimedia manager during initialization, or when it losses contact with the multimedia hub.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that Claim 1 and claims 2-5 that depend therefrom are patentably distinct from the prior art.

3. Claim 23 was also rejected based on the combination of Higgins and Corley. Claim 23 has also been amended to recite:

when the network access application is not active  
for the at least one of the plurality of clients,  
in response, opening a network access application  
for the at least one of the plurality of clients.

AS discussed in conjunction with claim 1, neither Higgins nor Corley discloses, suggests or teaches such a feature. As indicated by the Examiner, Higgins fails to teach opening a network access application for at least one of the plurality of clients when the network access application is not active. Corley's multimedia manager 190 is activated during either initialization of the multimedia hob 120 or recovery, when a prior multimedia

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manager drops off. Corley's multimedia hub does not open a network access application for the at least one of the plurality of clients, in response to the network access application not being active for the at least one of the plurality of clients. Corley opens the multimedia manager during initialization, or when it losses contact with the multimedia hub.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that Claim 23 and claims 24-27 that depend therefrom are patentably distinct from the prior art.

4. Claim 7 has been amended to claim the subject matter of allowable claim 8. Applicant thus believes that claim 7 and claims 10-11 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

5. Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 14. Applicant thus believes that claim 12 and claims 15-18 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

6. Claim 29 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 30. Applicant thus believes that claim 29 and claims 32-33 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

7. Claim 34 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 36. Applicant thus believes that claim 34 and claims 37-40 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

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8. Claim 41 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 42. Applicant thus believes that claim 41 and claim 44 that depends therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

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For the foregoing reasons, the applicant believes that claims 1-5, 7, 10-12, 15-27, 29, 32-34, and 37-41 and 44 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

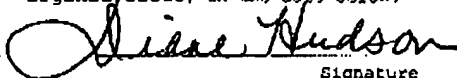
No additional fee is due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that are required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2126 (VIXS 007).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By: /Bruce E. Stuckman reg. 36,693/  
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## CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile (571) 273-8300 to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, on the date below:

09/22/2006  
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Signature